

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS ONLINE

SEPTEMBER 2008

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DISTRICT'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS TEAMS PITCH IN FOR HURRICANE SUPPORT MISSIONS



Brunswick County Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Team members (L-R) *Frank Snipes, Greg Williams, CAPT Andy Baker and Jeff Richter* inspect the beach at Ocean Isle for erosion from Hurricane Hanna on September 6. The week before, 24 members of the Wilmington District

headed for Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama as part of the Corps' nationwide mobilization to respond to Hurricane Gustav which threatened the U.S. Gulf Coast. For more images of the Wilmington District's Emergency Operations please go to page four. (Heusinkveld Photo)

UP FRONT

GREAT YEAR END EFFORT!

You turned that calendar page and closed out FY 2009 GREEN. Contracting went into the crunch aiming to complete a minimum of 45 actions. They bumped that up to 72. In a year when we had some vulnerable Military Programs funds to commit, that is an awesome success that will make our customers very happy. Project and pro-



COL Jeff Ryscavage

grams folks walked through this fire with them and with Resources Management to bring our projects through in good shape.

RM also did a superb job closing the books cleanly on a busy year. Even brand new baby Jackson Boyle contributed by holding off on his appearance in our world until Laura Boyle finished helping her team cross the finish line.

And all around our District, time keepers, credit card holders, and others

who do travel orders and vouchers and manage the funding for our projects in the field did a tremendous job getting all the figures straight and important paperwork ready. Many of you will have extra workload in the first days of the new fiscal year as well, catching up all the work that must be carried forward.

Thank you all for your tremendous professionalism and dedication at this busy time.

ESSAYONS!

Wilmington District News Online is an unofficial publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 published each month by the Wilmington District Public Affairs Office to keep District employees informed of current District news, activities and achievements. Send your submissions for the Wilmington District News Online to henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil or penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil

This is an online publication and open to the public.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

NEIL MYERS UPDATE FROM AFGHANISTAN ENGINEER DISTRICT

I've been in country almost six weeks. Time has passed quickly with a ton of work to keep me busy. I'm working as a Deputy O&M Program Manager for AED; five other people in our small office here at the Qalaa House base, same location as April (Ward) and Kim (Jewell).

The workload has been overwhelming since the first day I arrived and was thrown into the swarm, sink or swim. I've been swimming hard at the pace of 11-13 hrs a day, six days a week, and five

hours on Fridays. My main responsibilities have been three-fold: water quality / well issues at ANA bases (Afghan National Army); off-ramp O&M training for LN's (Local Nationals), and serving on a Contract Source Selection Board on a nationwide O&M contract for 40+ Afghan Police Facilities. The work is both challenging and fulfilling; it has a "pioneer" feel as we are developing programs and projects that directly impact the rebuilding and security of the Afghan nation.

The security conditions are relatively safe here compared to my six-months in Iraq last year. I have not had to run and jump in a bunker since I've been here and each trip outside the wire, at least here around Kabul, has been a relatively safe, cultural adventure. I've include a few pictures, some passed to me by others that have ventured further than I have.

Ron Roberts from the SAW Repair Yard just stopped by our office to say hi as he passes though Kabul on his way home; he's just finishing his six-month deployment and ready to get back home.

I'll close for now and extend my thanks to everyone in the Wilmington District that is contributing to cover for me and the other deploy-ees serving her in Afghanistan and Iraq. I wish you all well and hope you are enjoying the beautiful coastal, fall weather in Wilmington.

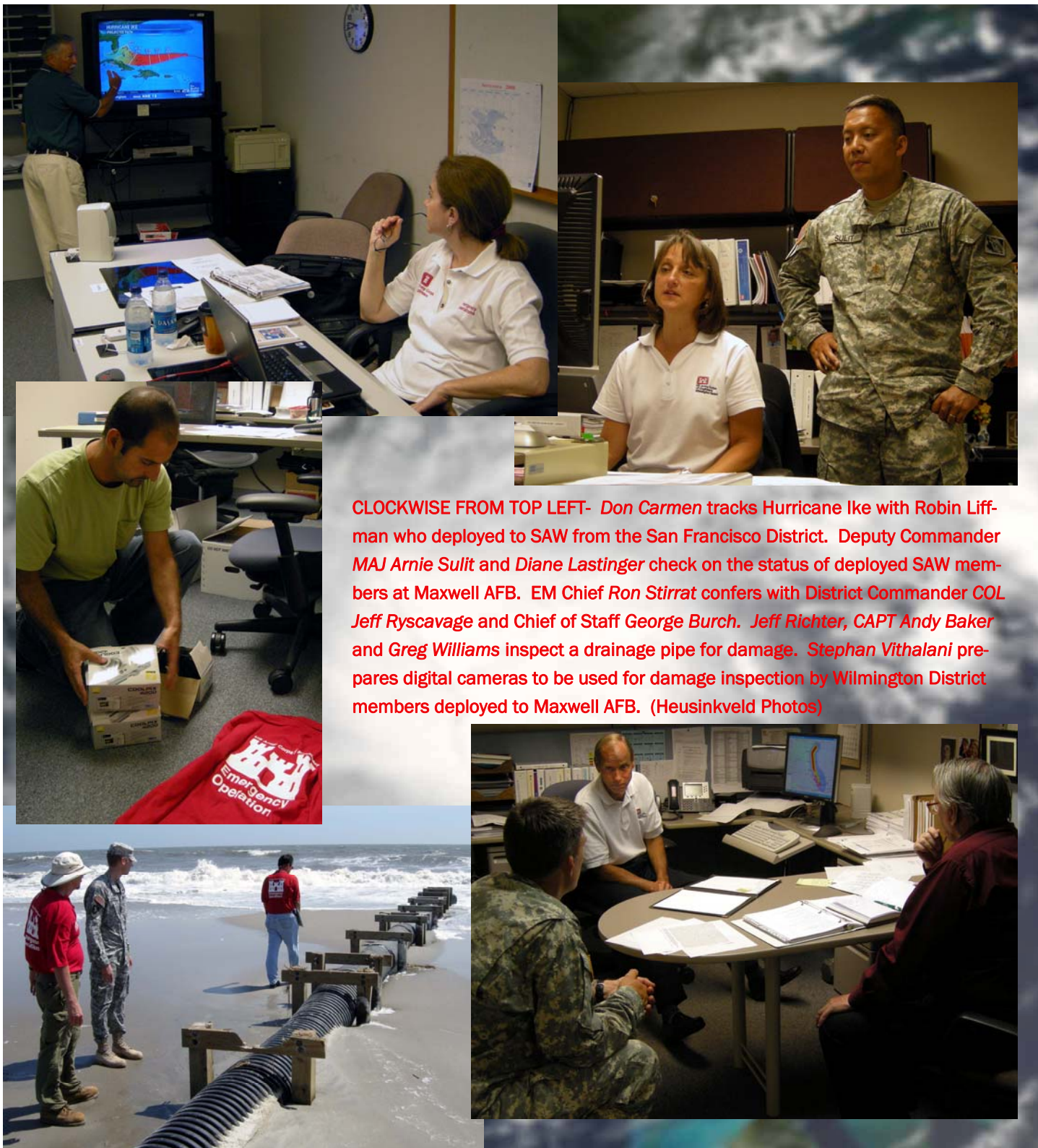
Later, and thanks for your prayers and well-wishes. Neil ■



Wilmington District members pose for a group picture in Kabul. Foreground- Mattie Jones, Kim Jewell, April Ward. Top- Ron Roberts, Neil Myers.



HURRICANE SUPPORT CON'T



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT- Don Carmen tracks Hurricane Ike with Robin Liffman who deployed to SAW from the San Francisco District. Deputy Commander MAJ Arnie Sulit and Diane Lastinger check on the status of deployed SAW members at Maxwell AFB. EM Chief Ron Stirrat confers with District Commander COL Jeff Ryscavage and Chief of Staff George Burch. Jeff Richter, CAPT Andy Baker and Greg Williams inspect a drainage pipe for damage. Stephan Vithalani prepares digital cameras to be used for damage inspection by Wilmington District members deployed to Maxwell AFB. (Heusinkveld Photos)

PRESIDENT BUSH PROCLAIMS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the many Americans of Hispanic descent who have made outstanding contributions to our Nation.

The rich cultural traditions of the Hispanic-American community have made a remarkable impact on American society. The diverse backgrounds of Hispanic Americans and their dedication to family have become an integral part of America. With a deep commitment to faith and a strong desire to live the American dream, these citizens are realizing the full blessings of liberty. Educational opportunities are helping a new generation work toward success, and many Hispanic Americans operate thriving small businesses.

We also honor Hispanic Americans for their strong tradition of service in the Armed

Forces. These proud patriots have fought in every war since our founding, and many have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage. Hispanic service men and women have shown their love for the United States by answering the call to serve, and we owe them and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their patriotism and valor have added to the character of our Nation.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of Hispanic Americans everywhere. To honor those achievements, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage

Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2008, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third. **GEORGE W. BUSH**

The Borinqueneers South Korea, February 2, 1951

In August 1950 the Korean War was less than two months old, and Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment was on its way to the combat zone. The regiment landed at the port city of Pusan on the Korean Peninsula's southern tip, where U.S. forces had been holding a perimeter against the Communist North Korean invaders. Sent into action immediately, the Puerto Ricans took part in the U.S. breakout and drive to the north. Following the brilliantly planned and executed surprise landings at Inchon, U.S. and other United Nations forces drove deep into the mountains of North Korea. At that point a huge Chinese Army entered the war. The U.S.

Eighth Army was overrun, and the 1st Marine Division, with attached U.S. and British Army Units, was completely encircled. In one of the greatest fighting retreats in history, the outnumbered Marines battled their way south to the coast. The first friendly troops they saw on the frozen ridgetops were the Puerto Ricans of the 65th Infantry Regiment, sent to hold the perimeter



around the vital port of Hungnam. The Puerto Ricans supervised the evacuation of Hungnam, finally sailing themselves on Christmas Eve, 1950. The 65th landed in Pusan as they had five months before, and again fought their way northward. Late January 1951 found them south of the Korean capital of Seoul, under orders to take two hills being held by the Chinese 149th

Division. The assault began on January 31st, and took three days. On the morning of the third day the top of the hills were within reach, and two battalions of the 65th fixed bayonets and charged straight at the enemy positions. The Chinese fled. During its service in Korea, the men of the 65th Infantry won four Distinguished Service Crosses and 125 Silver Stars. The "The Borinqueneers" were also awarded

the Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, two Korean Presidential Unit Citations and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery. The 65th Infantry Regiment's gallant service in a difficult war is exemplified by its regimental motto, "Honor and Fidelity," and the regiment itself exemplifies the National Guard's leading role in our nation's military history.

IMPACTED DISTRICT

WHAT THAT REALLY MEANS

By Penny Schmitt

Wilmington District is a veteran of many hurricanes. We have the 'battle ribbons' posted on our Conference Room wall to prove it. Some District members also have vivid memories of coming to work despite storm and flood damage, trees on their roofs, or families displaced for a temporary evacuation. Others remember nothing worse than working in their own offices while wearing a white or red Emergency Ops shirt, and going home to some heavier than usual yard work.

The total displacement that is now shaking up Galveston District is not something we have experienced. What is it like for this Texas

district? What can we learn that might prepare us to weather such a terrible storm ourselves?

Here in Galveston, many are living away from home and trying to work in an alternate location. This is not a temporary inconvenience; it's a situation that may go on for weeks or even months for some. The Galveston District Office, in the Jadwin Building, is located on Galveston Island, a barrier island on the Gulf Coast, with a beautiful view of the waterfront. It also looks right into the teeth of storms like Hurricane Ike. Post-storm reconnaissance indicates the Jadwin Building fared well, with only minor damage. However, the commu-

nity around it is full of downed power lines and debris, the water system is broken, and phone and cable service may be gone for quite a while. Access to the island is understandably restricted.



Richard Long (red shirt) normally has this office to himself, but on this day he is sharing with Public Affairs Officer Marti Cencki, COL Weston and (unseen) Penny Schmitt, plus two photographers.

Most of the Galveston District Headquarters work force lived on Galveston or nearby mainland sites. Some people have had severe damage to their homes. Others are simply without electrical power. Supervisors are being challenged to find productive work and alternate work sites for some of their people, and to make leave and other types of support available to those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed.

The alternate EOC site can accommodate key and essential staff of the District—sort of. People are sharing computers and phones, working in back service rooms, crowded around the break room



Robert Haynes (St. Paul District) takes photos of debris on Galveston Island. 40 percent of Galveston District's workforce make their homes here.

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IMPACTED DISTRICT CON'T

table with laptops and files, and managing somehow to maintain a pretty good attitude. Outdoors, a few beloved pets of staff members patiently wait to go home to their own back yards. Inside the office, every operation that involves technology is at least somewhat harder to accomplish. In the first two or three days, communication networks were spotty or unavailable.

In spite of all this, Galveston District has accounted for all its people, accomplished navigation surveys, begun salvaging wrecked boats and other big debris from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and assessed damage to the Jadwin Building. Its Regulatory rules for emergency clean up are out on the street, its working staff are being sheltered, fed, and supported, and the RM is somehow accomplishing year end close out. Managers of the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs are taking the opportunity of a well-filled pool to run special seepage tests on the banks of the reservoirs. District members have even found some time to help support FEMA-directed response and recovery missions being managed from Fort Worth District's recovery field office.

If this makes you wonder what

might happen to your home and working life if the Cape Fear region got 'a big one'—well, it should. The Federal Office of Personnel Management, the Corps, and other Federal Agencies can offer 'safe haven' support for a limited time, flexible use of leave, and other types of assistance to our work force. But we all have to be prepared to take responsible steps to make sure that our families are cared for and working life can continue.

When an outage lasts for more than about 48 hours, it becomes more than an irritating inconvenience. Not only are you without light, radio, television, air conditioning, or cooking. Also the food in your refrigerator and freezer begins to spoil and your toilets won't flush. All those helpful hints about filling your bathtubs and sinks in advance of a storm and topping off your gas tank mean what they say! Pay attention or you could be sorry!

Evacuated Galveston District Emergency Operations team members learned all this while living away from home in a hotel that went from comfortable to complicated in the flash of a power outage. Soon, the unprepared found themselves carrying wastepaper

baskets filled with swimming pool water up many flights in darkened stairwells just for the luxury of a toilet flush.

Instructions to stock enough emergency supplies to keep you and your household going for 72 hours really do matter. Whether you stay home, evacuate, or go stay with friends or relatives, those supplies could become critically important faster than you think. The Corps and FEMA did a pretty good job of initiating distribution of emergency supplies—by Monday afternoon following a Friday night storm. Debris -clogged roads, gas shortages, power outages, and other traffic jams of one kind and another make it tough to beat that 72-hour deadline for bringing emergency supplies to neighborhoods.

I talked to a number of Galveston District folks who experienced the storm's wrath. Here are a few of the things they are glad they did to prepare—and a few things they wish they had done.

Charles Sheffler says "I'm glad I prepared the house and brought in supplies the way they advise. Also, I'm real glad I moved my boat out of harm's way."

PHILPOTT HOSTS NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY EVENT

Thousands of local volunteers at more than 100 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project sites participated in this year's 15th annual National Public Lands Day Sept. 27, the largest annual volunteer hands-on restoration activity of its kind. Activities around the Nation included the clean up, repairs, refurbishments and other volunteer events in parks, forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands, cultural and historic sites and other public lands and waters and involve more than 120,000 volunteers at 1,500 sites.

At the Wilmington District's Philpott Lake, about 30 people volunteered to work with Philpott Rangers and Friends of Philpott, Inc. to plant a streamside riparian buffer of 100 trees and shrubs along Nicholas Creek at the Jamison Mill Recreation Area.



Isabella Sulit and her Dad, Wilmington District Deputy Commander MAJ Arnie Sulit, plant a tree at Jamison Mill Recreation Area.

Philpott Ranger Mary Lawson organized the event with assistance from Friends of Philpott and the Dan River Basin Association.

As part of this year's National Public Lands Day, participants commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Famous for planting more than three billion trees in the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps played a leading role in restoring America's deteriorating forests.

In addition, this year's National Public Lands Day kicked

off an interagency pledge of cooperation among the eight federal land management agencies to promote the new "Get Outdoors-It's Yours" national campaign. This national initiative is expected to raise awareness of the opportunities for America's youth to reengage with nature and to en-



Volunteers at Philpott's Jamison Mill recreation Area plant dozens of trees and shrubs that will help stabilize the land next to a creek and also help filter water.

courage children and their families to spend more time participating in outdoor education, recreation and stewardship activities.

Last year, National Public Lands Day involved 110,000 volunteers at 1,300 sites. Volunteers removed more than 500,000 pounds of trash, built and maintained 720 miles of

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PUBLIC LANDS DAY CON'T

trails, and planted 55,000 trees among many other tasks. National Public Lands Day partners include federal agencies, National Environmental Education Foundation and other nonprofit groups, 125 state, county and city agencies, and several corporate sponsors.

The Corps has been involved with National Public Lands Day since its inception in 1994 and has consistently been one of the largest providers of sites and volunteers participat-

ing in the event. The Corps of Engineers is the number one federal provider of outdoor recreation, managing more than 12 million acres of land and water for natural resources and public recreation benefits. The Corps' 2,476 recreation sites at 423 projects offer a wide range of opportunities and facilities for outdoor recreation. ■



Philpott's Assistant Operations Manager Earl Wright receives a Certificate of Recognition signed by Virginia Governor Tim Kaine from Linda Drage of Friends of Philpott as Ranger Mary Lawson and SAW Deputy Commander MAJ Arnie Sulit look on.

LOTS HAPPENING AT FALLS LAKE DURING NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

**By Dana Matics,
Falls Lake Ranger**

Saturday, September 27th dawned with the possibility of rain in Raleigh, but with all other appearances of a normal weekend. Normal that is, until 8am when the sound of saws, hammers, shovels, and rakes hitting the ground began at Falls Lake. The Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail (FMST) were at it again this weekend. Since early 2007, the FMST has been working one Saturday a month to dig 17 miles of new trail along

the Falls Lake Trail – part of the NC Mountains to Sea Trail.

This Saturday was no different in the work done, except that the FMST was joined in their efforts to improve public lands by literally hundreds of thousands of other volunteers across the country. This Saturday, the 27th of September marked the 15th National Public



Volunteers build a bridge on a new section of the Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail at Falls Lake.

Lands Day. Every September, over 100,000 volunteers work to improve public lands nationwide by building trails, planting trees, pick-

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PUBLIC LANDS DAY CON'T

ing up trash and completing other projects. What an amazing effort!

The FMST group at Falls Lake definitely did its part for National Public Lands Day. The group really stepped it up for the event by bringing out 80 volunteers who dug 1/2 mile of trail, cleared brush on existing trail, and erected a 32-foot wooden bridge on a newly opened section of trail. For our engineers

out there – yes, these folks used approved design plans and really do know what they are doing!

The Falls Lake Trail will eventually be around 50 miles long and be an important connection in the NC Mountains to Sea Trail. Its development has been a lesson in partnership efforts between the Corps, state agencies, the FMST, and even several municipalities. As new trail

is flagged, walked and approved by agency representatives, the army of FMST volunteers is on our heels to get it on the ground. Perhaps it was just another work day for some, but having our volunteers participate in National Public Lands Day is a great opportunity to be part of something a little bigger than just what's going on in our own backyards. ■

FYSA

LAW CHANGES- RETIREES CAN SALUTE THE FLAG

Retired Soldiers are still proud and still serving! Congress has put the Still Saluting into law for Retired Soldiers and other veterans. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181) changed Section 9, Title 4, U.S. Code, which covers “Conduct during hoisting, lowering or passing the flag.”

“During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over their heart, or if applicable, remove their

headress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.” ■



NEW FACES IN THE DISTRICT

Gary Hardesty

will be working at the Wilmington District on a two-month detail assignment. His regular job is at USACE Headquarters as the Program Manager for South Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Program. During his assignment he'll be working on several planning projects with upcoming milestones including Princeville, Wilmington Harbor, and Currituck Sound. He also plans to have weekly "Lunch-n-Learns" on Wednesday's starting 24 Sep through 5 Nov on a variety of Civil Works topics and training needs. Gary has a son who's redshirting for the NC State Wolfpack football team this season.



Nancy Kell

will be working part time for the Executive Office. Nancy worked in the Wilmington District from 1980 til 2002 before



going to Norfolk, Virginia to work at the Norfolk Naval Station. She retired from that organization earlier this year. She is the mother of two grown children and she enjoys dancing and country music.

Ginny Mincie returns to the Wilmington District part time after retiring two years ago. She'll be working in the Engineering Branch as a program analyst.



Jonathan Bingham is a junior at UNCW majoring in environmental studies. The Duplin County native is a co-op working in Emergency Management and Logistics Management. He enjoys watching sports.



Brandee Boggs comes to the Asheville Regulatory Field Office as an Office Automation Technician after



working for the US Forest Service at Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico. She has worked in Fire Management since 1996 working for Yellowstone National Park and The Nature Conservancy (Mid-Atlantic Division). She holds an AAS in Forest Management, and is presently a full time student at UNC Asheville studying Environmental Studies-Sustainable Land Use and Community Planning. She is also employed part time UNC Asheville as the Director of the Student Environmental Center. Her partner has two children ages 11 and nine whom she helps raise.

Nancy Raynor

is back at the District working part-time in Emergency Operations. She retired two years ago from EM and she's reviewing emergency operations plans. ■



IMPACTED DISTRICT CON'T

Martie Cenkei says: “I brought some important family pictures to the office and stored them in a safe place. I’m pretty sure they are all right.”

Nick Laskowski happened to be away from Galveston in the pre-evacuation period. “I stocked up on gallons of water, which was great since my wife and I don’t have power or water yet in our apartment on the mainland,” he said. “On the other hand, my Government Travel Card was back on the island. It’s still there. But that really is an inconvenience that can be overcome,” he said.

Trisha Brannan’s home on Galveston Island suffered severe water damage. “I’m ok, and my Mom is safe,” she said. “That’s important. It’s not as bad as it could be. I have a home, a job a place to stay, and I feel blessed. I know I am better off than some people. But it was really bad to see that nasty sludge all over and not even be able to get into my curio cabinet. I brought some of my most important things out before the storm, but you can’t get everything. My truck is too small. I guess another time I would have some plastic containers for valuables that I would keep handy to take away.”

Conversations in the crowded

hallways and spaces in the Addicks Project Office, where the District has moved its operations, center around who’s ok, and who suffered big losses in the storm.

“Accounting for everyone in the District was job number one for us,” said Colonel David Weston. “We had trouble contacting about four people for a little while, but we got hold of everyone.”

If Wilmington District had to exercise its option to relocate to Fort Bragg during an emergency, do you know how you’ll do your job? We owe it to ourselves to be really familiar with our own part in the Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan. Where do you fit? Even if your ‘place’ would simply be to evacuate and keep your supervisor advised of your status and location, that is very important.

Does each of us have a plan for evacuation? Do we have supplies of imperishable food and water, batteries and other necessities that we



Piles of sodden debris fill front yards all over Bridge City, Texas.

can use or carry away with us at need? Have we made certain our supervisors know all the possible ways to get in touch with us—do we know how and where to reach our supervisor? What about those ‘desert island’ items that we would not want to lose no matter what—like precious wedding pictures, family heirlooms, important insurance and other papers? It is true that ‘stuff is just stuff’ and our lives and safety are most important. Still, it’s worth thinking ahead about what portable and precious items we might want to be prepared to take with us to safety.

Hurricane Ike’s impact on Galveston District reminds us that the threat of a disaster in our home town is real. ■

“ 10 ”

by Park Ranger Danny Martin

The number “10” has different meanings to different people. Some people may remember 10 as the age when they received their first bike. Other people may associate 10 with Bo Derek’s famous movie of 1979, “10”. To the Olympian athlete, a 10 is a perfect performance that requires years of dedication and preparation to accomplish. This year at Philpott Lake, the number 10 also has been a “special number” which we strived to achieve. As of August 18th, Philpott reached a milestone of 10 years without a drowning. Much like the Olympian athlete, a tremendous amount of preparation and dedication went into this accomplishment. Rangers coordinated interpretive programs, both on-site and as outreach, to spread the word about water safety. Volunteers worked in the Visitor Assistance Center, distributing safety literature to the many visitors. Other volunteer groups, such as “Friends of Philpott” and the “Philpott – Fairy Stone Safety

Council”, conducted projects to better provide our visitors with safe recreational activities. The various park Gate Attendants constantly monitored the clientele who entered their park areas, reporting any would-be swimmer who may have had a “few too many.” Our contract employees who were mowing grass or cleaning a restroom always took the time to report any unsafe act or condition that they may have seen. Rangers constantly kept a vigilant eye and ear out to immediately correct any potentially dangerous or unsafe condition. And finally, Philpott Lake was, and is, blessed with a management staff which puts safety above all else and which is always receptive to new ideas.

Now the year is coming to an end.



Ranger Danny Martin with some of his young friends and Bobber the Dog.

Adults are getting back to the business of jobs and supporting their daily livelihoods. Children are back to their scholarly chores and video games. The cool days hint of frost in the air and a close to the recreation season. But, not too far in the future, a new season looms on the horizon. Swimmers, boaters, campers, and picnickers will again flock to the Lake, requiring watchful eyes to help keep them safe. And, as for the staff at Philpott, we will have a new “special number.” Can you guess what it is? If you guessed “11”, then you’re right! ■

GENERATION Y ENGINEERS BRING FRESH IDEAS, TEAM BUILDING TO US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

They don't like to stay too long on any one assignment. This is a generation of multi-taskers, and they can juggle e-mail on their Black-Berrys while talking on cellphones while trolling online. And they believe in their own self worth and value enough that they're not shy about trying to change the companies they work for. That compares somewhat with Generation X, a generation born from the mid-1960s to the late-1970s, known for its independent thinking, addiction to change and emphasis on family.

This generalized statement helps

describe young people born between 1982 and 1994. They're known as Generation Y, and they're beginning to enter the workforce in droves. They're bringing with them new thoughts and ideas, sometimes

much different from those of their older colleagues.

Wes Brown, 23, and Elana Sattin, 24, are two NC State-graduated civil engineers who shared a little bit about what they're bringing as new employees to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Wesley Brown inspects beach erosion after Hurricane Hanna as part of the New Hanover County Preliminary Damage Assessment team. (Ed Dunlop Photo)

decades ago and now the environmental side is saying that wasn't such a great idea," said Wes Brown who's currently working in Coastal, Hydraulics and Hydrology. "I think I'm more conscious of that sort of thing because it's more about sustainability. Right now we take water for granted. I was in Raleigh at the time of a lot of drought issues. People really don't seem to know if they'll know what to do if it happens again."

Part of what drew Brown to



Elana Sattin- "Engineering is becoming a very big team oriented type thing. It's bringing a lot of engineers out of their shells."

"The Corps went dam crazy

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GENERATION Y CON'T

USACE was the Corps' high visibility in the national media during the unwatering of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

"The Corps was in the news a lot more than in the past. I'd seen what they had done and how they reacted to things. And I learned that the Corps of Engineers was all over the country and spread out around the world. That also steered me in. I've also felt that what I should be doing is important in the big picture and working to make a difference and being part of the government."

Brown said he would like to add a sense of adventure with his work. When the time comes he'd consider deployment. And he'd rather be fulfilled than make big bucks.

"It's definitely not about the money because there are other engineering degrees that you could get that would make you a whole lot more money. I'm doing what I want to do."

Elana Sattin always had a fond-

ness for math in high school. Technically savvy, she chose to go into civil engineering because it was the "most functionable."

"You could go more places with a civil engineering degree than you could with anything else," she said. "I like the versatility of it. I started out in structures concentration, did a little environmental engineering, and ended up in transportation. I like to a little bit of everything."

What Sattin says she's bringing to the Corps is team building, a highly-developed function that comes easily to Generation Y because of numerous organized activities they experienced growing up. And she feels this will bring out a different side of normally shy engineers.

"My class in college was not as introverted as the majority of other engineer classes," she said.

"Engineering is becoming a very big team oriented type thing. Even in classes right now they're focusing on team building and learning how a lot of organizations are

switching to teams. It's bringing a lot of engineers out of their shells."

Both Brown and Sattin understand that the numbers of civil engineers entering the workforce is declining, and the shape of the U.S. infrastructure continues to deteriorate. They hope that trend will reverse because the country will need qualified civil engineers.

"There is a big drop out rate during the sophomore year because a lot of people switch majors," said Sattin. "There's always going to be a need for civil engineers."

Brown said he recognized a big generation gap within the Wilmington District and throughout USACE. He's hoping that there will be enough civil engineers to replace those who will retire.

"When I went to Corps Day I noticed that there were a lot of people who were receiving their 30-plus years of service. In the coming years there are going to be some big changes in the Corps." ■

Pastor Bill

Answering the Call

Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration.

But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD.
Jeremiah 8:7



Bill Adams

A short walk the other night reminded me that we are at the peak of a fascinating time of year. Many species of birds are migrating south for the winter and we are fortunate enough to live on the Atlantic flyway. Many kinds of birds migrate at night and use the stars overhead to guide them on the way. This gives them the daylight hours to rest and feed. Since these birds use the stars to navigate, migratory flights are usually limited in bad weather or on cloudy nights. But when a cool front passes through, it brings a follow-wind and stars that shine brightly. When this happens, the birds are up and moving by the thousands.

Traveling in the dark is hazardous and is best done with a few buddies, so these birds migrate in flocks. But since they are flying in the dark they cannot see each other. So how do they keep together?

They sing out to each other as they go using “call notes.” Each bird in the migrating flock is relying on the call notes of the others to keep their fast moving group together. Each one does its part by occasionally answering a call with another call note. Each bird relies on all of the others.

If you go outside for a walk on a crisp, starlit fall night like we’re having now, you can hear these call notes as these flocks move overhead. The same thing happens in the spring. Again, large numbers of birds move every night on the way north. A fascinating moving image of the spring bird migration on radar at Key West a few years ago can be seen at

www.srh.noaa.gov/key/HTML/springmigration.html.

Now a really polished ornithologist can recognize many of the different

kinds of birds flying overhead from the sound of their call notes. Not me. Most of the time I just hear a high-pitched “tseep” sound, kind of like a single cricket chirp, that tells me it’s a sparrow or warbler. Occasionally I’ll hear a whistle from a thrush or “craack” from a heron or a clapper rail, but most of the time it’s just a “tseep.” I cannot distinguish their calls, but they can. Each one knows the calls of the others in their group.

How marvelous this is! How closely these annual bird migrations parallel our life journey. Each of us is also traveling through life with others that we need for support. We, too, look to the heavens for guidance. And as we go through our days we check in with each other – keeping in touch as we go. We all need each other to help stay on course because, like those migrating birds, we sometimes find ourselves traveling in a world full of uncertainty and darkness. But, thankfully, because we have each other there is always daylight and rest ahead. May the wind always be at your back! ■